

SECOND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT  
U.S. SERIAL NO. 10/763,186

DOCKET NO.  
Q79580

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-16 were previously cancelled; only claims 17-36 are currently pending in this application.

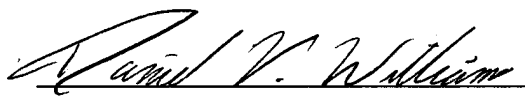
Via the foregoing amendments, the phrase "contacting the outer peripheral surface of said screw shaft" has been amended to read --contacting said screw shaft-- in each of independent claims 17, 18, 22 and 31-34. In addition, claim 36 was amended to delete the recitation of "an outer peripheral surface of" in line 5 thereof.

Entry and consideration of this Preliminary Amendment, as well as the Preliminary Amendment filed on January 26, 2004, are respectfully requested, and an examination on the merits in due course is earnestly solicited.

Please charge any fees due (except the Issue/Publication Fees) to our Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,

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